



Australian Government
Department of Health and Ageing

SECRETARY

Mr Phil Johnston
5 Ronal Avenue
Freshwater NSW 2096

Dear Mr Johnston,

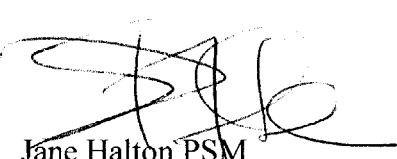
Thank you for your letter of 28 March 2008 inviting comment on your proposal for the Youthful Exuberance Lifestyle Program (*YELP*).

Your proposal is well founded on the premise that physical activity offers important benefits in combating obesity and depression. Your intention of piloting the program before expanding it into full promotion is commendable.

Australia is now facing an unprecedented challenge in curbing the tide of obesity which threatens the long term sustainability of our health system. I anticipate that community based initiatives will proliferate in coming years as we meet this challenge. The Government will normally assist such activities through competitive grant rounds. The last such round, funded under the Australian Better Health Initiative, closed on 26 June 2007. You may wish to monitor the website www.grantslink.gov.au for any suitable rounds in the future.

Thank you once again for inviting our comment on your proposal.

Yours sincerely



Jane Halton PSM
Secretary

7th April 2008